

The Beatitudes

The Fourth Beatitude

Int.

1. Aim: To explain the meaning of the fourth beatitude and make application to us today.
2. Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."
3. In Matthew 5:1-12 we have 8 beatitudes.
 - a. Setting
 - (1) Preacher = Jesus the Christ, the Son of man, also the Son of God, and the prince of all preachers.
 - (2) Pulpit = the mountain, it was near the city of Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee -- a natural amphitheater between two humps or horns of the mountain.
 - (3) Audience = disciples
 - (4) Date = about 28 ad
 - b. Given by Jesus to show us the happy way of life
 - c. Beatitude = means blessed or happy
4. Review of first three beatitudes...
 - a. **First** = Poor in spirit -- humble in attitude toward self, is willing to follow God, he can receive forgiveness, he has faith
 - b. **Second** = Mourn --- able to mourn because of his sins, he has a tender conscience, can repent and be comforted because he is forgiven
 - c. **Third** = Meek --- yielding to God, subdued, not weak or arrogant, will inherit or enjoy life here and hereafter, he is willing to confess

5. The Fourth Beatitude "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6 KJV
6. Other Translations of Matt. 5:6
 - a. ESV "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
 - b. NKJV "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."
 - c. SEB "People who are hungry and thirsty for what is right are happy, because they will be filled."
7. Luke 6:21 "Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled." ESV "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied."
8. Plan of lesson:
 - a. Hunger and Thirst
 - b. Righteousness
 - c. Filled
 - d. Implications

Discussion

I. Hunger and Thirst

A. Meaning

1. In order to maintain our physical fitness and well being we must maintain the cells of our body.
 - a. Two important needs are food and water
 - b. Need these at a proper level and regular intervals
2. Craving --- a strong longing desire
 - a. Intense and strong desires - strongest drives of man
 - b. Hunger has led to cannibalism -- 2 Kings 6:25-30

B. The idea Jesus is presenting to us is DESIRE

1. We must desire righteousness in order to be filled
2. We cannot shoot the gospel into a person - or install a program like we do on a computer
3. A man must know what the gospel offers and realize his own condition without it, and desire what the gospel will do for him
4. Desire = "conscious impulse toward an object or experience that promises enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment." [Web. p. 224]
5. Strong desire, like hungering and thirsting
6. Many people are starving spiritually who are not even aware of their problem
7. Could call this Beatitude the "Delicious Hunger"

C. A good appetite is a sign of growth

1. It indicates life and health
 - a. It assures one of a growing condition
 - b. It is a source of real enjoyment
2. When you lose your physical appetite you will begin to lose weight and stop growing
3. When you lose your spiritual appetite you will begin to lose heart.
 - a. That is when you quit growing
 - b. This will cause lukewarmness and absenteeism. You soon fail to pray, read, and study the scriptures, attending Bible classes, and worship with the saints.
 - c. A blessing of the delicious hunger is continued growth!!!

II. RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Not a desire for:
 1. Wealth, honor or worldly fame
 2. Social standing, political status
 3. In a few years these things will not matter - all will pass away
- B. The truly successful person will hunger and thirst after righteousness
 1. Righteousness is the condition which is acceptable to God
 2. It involves purity of life, and correctness in thinking, feeling and actions
- C. Righteousness
 1. Comes from a word that means "Right doing or doing right"
 2. It involves doing right for God, neighbor, and self
 3. Also implied in this word is the idea of "doing good"
 4. Righteousness is the character and conduct that are conformed to the divine will, which is shown in a life of right doing toward God and others.
- D. Soul food
 1. Jesus is the "bread of life" Jn. 6:35 & 51 "I am the living bread"
 2. God designed food and drink for the body
 3. He also arranged for nourishment for the inward man
 4. It is God's word that nourishes and builds us up spiritually
 5. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" 1 Pet. 2:2
 6. As we grow we are to hunger for the meat of the Word. "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Heb.5:14

7. There are some sections of scripture that are "hard to be understood".
2 Peter 3:16
8. But the word of God is sweeter than honey to him. Psalms 19:10 "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
9. Psalms 1:2 "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
10. This "soul food" leads to righteousness

III. FILLED

- A. "...for they shall be filled."
 1. This is the only desire that can be truly and finally satisfied
 - a. All of the appetites of the flesh can be satisfied only for the moment.
 - b. The drunkard never satisfies his thirst. He dies still unsatisfied, wanting another drink.
 - c. Those who hunger for physical worldly things shall never be completely satisfied.
 2. God alone can fill our craving.
 - a. Ps. 107:9 NKJV "For he satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."
 - b. Christ bids us come and drink of the full cup of God's righteousness
 - c. Jn. 6:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

d. Jn. 4:13-15 "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. 15. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw."

3. He longs to give to us as he has given himself for us
 - a. He stands at the door and knocks
 - b. He only asks us to open - Rev. 3:20
4. We may hunger after many things and never get them
 - a. But those who hunger and thirst after righteousness cannot fail to obtain the object of their desire.
 - b. Christ pledged _ "They shall be filled"

B. All sincere seekers of truth and righteousness will be filled

1. Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself."
2. An example of a seeker of the truth is the eunuch - Acts 8:26-39
 - a. He diligently searched the scriptures to learn God's way
 - b. God arranged for him to learn the way
 - c. When we was taught, he then obeyed immediately, because he hungered and thirsted for righteousness.

C. They shall be filled

1. Not just partly filled, but completely satisfied
2. They will be filled with that for which they hunger and thirst
 - a. Peace
 - b. Righteousness

IV. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VERSE

A. Implies a sense of sin and weakness

1. We all have a sense of right and wrong
2. This verse implies that we realize we have gone astray and desire to get right with God.

B. Implies that we have a choice

1. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness is an attitude over which we have control
2. God does not force us to be obedient
3. If we are weak or dead spiritually we are responsible
4. God made us to have a longing for Heaven and to seek God. - Ec. 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."
5. Paul said that God made man to "seek the Lord." Acts 17:27
6. Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

7. "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:42

C. Implies that our desires are important

1. There is evil in the appetite for evil
2. There is grace in the desire for grace
3. There is lowliness in the longing for lowliness
4. There is purity in the craving for purity
5. Every person will eventually be what their soul craves most to be! Prov. 23:7a
"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"

D. Implies the need for complete Righteousness

1. The way these words are arranged in Greek it says literally "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for the whole of righteousness, for complete righteousness..."
2. People do not do this:
 - a. A man may be a very good man - be honest, good morals, but if someone comes to him for help he will refuse because of selfishness.
 - b. Or a man may be a drunkard, gambler, and use bad language, but when anyone is in trouble he would give him the last penny out of his pocket.
3. This beatitude says it is not enough to be satisfied with a partial goodness.
4. Blessed is the man who hungers and thirsts for the goodness which is total

5. The literal translation would read: "O the bliss of the man who longs for total righteousness as a starving man longs for food, and a man perishing of thirst longs for water, for that man will be truly satisfied."

CONCLUSION

1. Mt. 5:6
 - a. The hungering and thirsting are in the present tense
 - b. This means continuous action
 - c. This longing continues and even increases in the very act of being satisfied
 - d. As we never cease from physical hunger, so we should never cease longing for righteousness in the spiritual.
2. Every man will eventually be what his soul craves most to be.
3. If you desire to be righteous, there is no power on earth that can keep you from becoming righteous.
4. If you are not righteous, it is because your desire to become righteous is not strong or constant
5. How much do you want righteousness?
 - a. As much as a starving man wants food.
 - b. As much as a man dying of thirst wants water.
 - c. The hunger must continue throughout life.
6. Thoughts have power - Prov. 23:7 "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he"

7. Summary of first three beatitudes

- a. Poor in spirit - without pride, teachable, FAITH
- b. Mourn - mourns for sin - Godly sorrow leads to REPENTANCE
- c. Meek - allows God to control - submission - CONFESSION

8. Summary of the Fourth Beatitude

a. Specific

- (1) Hunger and thirst means a strong desire
- (2) It is a craving or longing

b. Results

- (1) Filled or satisfied
- (2) Ps. 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

c. Principle

- (1) Thirst for righteousness
- (2) Desire to know and do what is right.
- (3) Sincere desire to obey God

d. Application

- (1) Baptism
- (2) When we really crave to do the will of God then we will obey all his commands
- (3) Baptism washes away our sins which is the barrier between us and God -
Mark 16:16 Acts 22:16
- (4) We are raised to walk in newness of life - Rom. 6:1-4

9. Are you hungry ?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - August 15, 2010
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org